

**FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)**  
**PROJECT FACT SHEET**  
**SEPTEMBER 1994**  
**HNC REVISION: 15 JULY 1997**  
**TAG REVIEW DATE: 26 AUGUST 1997**

1. **SITE NAME:** Pratt Precision Bombing Range #1

**SITE NUMBER:** B07KS024600

**LOCATION:**

City: Bucklin  
County: Ford  
State: Kansas

**PROJECT NUMBER:** B07KS024601

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 4

**ASR RAC:** 4

**TAG RAC:** 4

2. **POC'S:**

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**ASR TECHNICAL REVIEWER:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Pratt Precision Bombing Range (PBR) #1 consisted of 2,507.45 acres located 6 miles north of Bucklin, and 7 miles east of Ford, Ford County, Kansas encompassing Sections 33 and 34, Township 27 South, Range 21 West and Sections 3 and 4, Township 28 South, Range 21 West. The land

is used for grazing with some crops grown. There are several landowners. The large Lena Birney Estate has been sold to generally absentee owners. There is no significant new development in the area.

The ranges are located in sand hills close to major streams. The surface can slope from 4 to 20%. The elevation of the site and the surrounding area ranges between a low of about 2,310 feet (NGVD) along the Arkansas River to a high of about 2,370 feet (NGVD) along the southern boundary of the site. Vegetation is mainly grass with sparse scrub bush. Bare areas with blown out places atop hills are common. There are areas of severe wind erosion where the plant cover has been stripped and the sand is easily eroded by the wind. Drainage is toward the north directly into the Arkansas River which then flows through Oklahoma and Arkansas into the Mississippi River. Surface drainage networks are not developed. Surface water probably soaks into the sandy soil and drains internally. Some ponds which are probably either spring or ground water fed are present.

**4. SITE HISTORY:** Between 1943 and 1944, the U.S. acquired 2,507.45 acres by lease from seven landowners for use as Pratt PBR #1, otherwise known as Bucklin Pratt PBR #1. The area was used by Pratt Army Air Field as a bombing range. There are no records concerning construction. The site remained under DOD control during the period of the leases (1943-1946). The site was reported surplus on 19 July 1946, the leases were terminated, and the land was transferred back to the original owners. By June of 1946, Tibbits Contractors Inc. had cleared the range and it was judged to be safe from explosives for the purpose of cultivation.

**5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

<b>Area:</b>	Entire Site
Size, Acres:	2,507.45
Former Use:	Precision Bombing Range
Present Use:	Grazing and agriculture
Probable End Use:	Grazing and agriculture
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Practice bombs (100 lb., M38A2)

**6. CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report for Pratt PBR #1 was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in September 1994.

**7. STRATEGY:** Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA)

**8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group recommended a strategy of EE/CA, RAC 4. The site

survey team inspected limited acreage along the line going north to south between sections 33 and 34 and found no trace or evidence of ordnance and explosives (OE) or fragments. Only after returning to St. Louis did they determine that they did not inspect the area where the bullseye target on the site was located. However, in August 1989, a representative of the Kansas City District inspected the site and found many bomb casings within the 40 acres encompassing the target area.

**HNC Safety Comments:** He agreed with the strategy of EE/CA, RAC 4. Other comments: (1)4,000 100 lb. practice bomb casings were recovered by the Bomb and Shell Disposal Team in 1946. The bombs were inert loaded and contained a 3 pound black powder spotting charge. There was no evidence of high explosive (HE) bomb use. (2)Owners do not want the site excavated as it would destroy the little vegetation that helps prevent soil erosion. The landowners want to keep things as they are. (3)There is no indication of chemical warfare materials (CWM) at the site and the site should be removed from the CWM INPR Data Base.

**Clearance at the Site:** At Appendix C-5, a document dated 20 June 1946 by 9800th TSU-CE, Detachment Number 14, Engineer Bomb and Shell Disposal Team, indicated that a thorough clearance of the site was accomplished by Tibbits Contractors Inc in which the complete area was swept a minimum of twice and the target area three times. Findings were: 38 M38A2 Practice Bombs, each containing all or part of the spotting charge and 4,000 100 lb. Practice Bombs which were all less than two feet under the ground. He stated the area was safe for explosives for the purpose of cultivation, that scrap was present on the surface which needed to be removed, and some craters needed to be filled. In an interview with a son of an owner, it was stated that in 1947 or 1948, the land was swept again and that the father considered the property clean. The ASR stated that with accomplishment of these clearances and a lack of debris seen during site inspection, finds of OE in the future would be rare.

**Natural Resources:** Federally and State threatened species occur within the site area and are listed in ASR Findings, pages 4-4 through 4-5, para 4.5.1. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

**Historical Resources:** The ASR did not indicate if historical/cultural resources were found to be present at the site. Any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office and/or other like organizations.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only

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